

Small Business Awarded Wastewater Treatment Facility Project at NAS Kingsville

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By Earl Bittner, NAVFAC SE Public Affairs Office

Jacksonville, Fla. (NNS) -- Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded a \$1.5 million contract March 28, to Dakota Meyer Enterprises (DME) Inc., a small business based in Campbellsville, Kentucky, for a wastewater treatment facility project at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas.

"Currently, NAS Kingsville operates its own sewer treatment plant," said Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Eric Hass. "The plant was constructed in 1942 and is in need of several repairs. It was originally sized for a flow of 400,000 gallons per day (GPD). The current operating load is approximately 100,000 GPD and this low flow, causes problems with the plant operation due to the fact that the plant is oversized and in need of multiple repairs."

Construction will consist of a new on-base lift station and approximately 14,000 linear-feet of new underground sanitary force main that will connect the NAS Kingsville sanitary sewer system to the City of Kingsville Sanitary Sewer System. The project will eliminate the need to operate the existing 70-year old oversized NAS Kingsville wastewater treatment plant and will include decommissioning, cleaning and abandoning the old plant.

This new project for NAS Kingsville will improve its wastewater collection and treatment system and correct past deficiencies.

"Construction of a new 100,000 GPD package waste water treatment plant is estimated to cost in excess of \$5 million," said Hass. "Adding life cycle costs of operating and maintaining a new plant would increase the costs far in excess of \$6 million. The connection to the City of Kingsville's Sanitary Sewer System is the best option at a total cost of less than \$2 million."

DME Inc. is named for former Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer who was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama Sept. 15, 2011. Meyer's award citation noted he received the award for "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on 8 September 2009."

One of the primary reasons Meyer started his own business was to put veterans back to work.

"When President Obama presented me with the Medal of Honor in 2011, I felt like my Nation was giving me a new charge. I firmly believe I have a responsibility to help as many of my fellow veterans and their families succeed after their years of sacrifice," said Meyer.

"NAVFAC remains committed to small businesses as our 'first option' in fulfilling our requirements," said NAVFAC Southeast Deputy for Small Business Nelson Smith. "Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses are a key component of the small business community, bringing the positive attitude and skills honed during their military service to the business world. I'm proud to be a member of an organization that demonstrates such amazing support to all of our small business programs."

"I've said time and time again, if you want to help a veteran, hire one," said Meyer. "But now I find myself saying something equally true, if not more so, if you want to help your business, hire a veteran."

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